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Miami Herald

POLITICS

A Miami Republican makes enemies in Washington

■ Rep. Carlos Curbelo is taking on the NRA over regulations and Democrats on the Hispanic Caucus, arguing that both the left and right are to blame for Washington's dysfunction.

BY ALEX DAUGHERTY
adaugherty@mcclatchydc.com

WASHINGTON

Carlos Curbelo is picking fights.

He attacked the NRA for opposing his bill to ban a firearm accessory that allows semi-automatic rifles to fire like automatics. He attacked the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, currently made up of all Democrats, for denying his membership application.

Curbelo

And he is attacking the Trump administration and fellow Republicans who oppose efforts to combat climate change.

These spats give the second-term Republican congressman from Miami ground to attacks both sides of the political spectrum for unyielding partisanship, and they allow Curbelo to deliver a message to his constituents and voters that the right and the left are both responsible for Washington's dysfunction.

That talking point rings hollow for some Democrats, who say Curbelo is a political opportunist who will do or say anything to survive in a South Florida district that voted for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump by 16 percentage points. And certainly, Curbelo represents the most Democratic-leaning congressional district in the country currently held by a Republican who is up for reelection in 2018.

He has spent the last four years trying to position himself as a political moderate.

"Most Americans are sick of the games, the hypocrisy — and honestly if that's what's required to be successful here, I'd rather go home," Curbelo said. "It's the only way worth doing this work. You can either go along to get

SEE CURBELO, 2A

WILDLIFE

DAVID SANTIAGO dsantiago@elnuevoherald.com

Above, Marni Wood, Miami Seaquarium manager of animal training, kisses Lolita the killer whale at the Seaquarium last summer. Below, Lolita performs in a show.

LOLITA MAY NEVER GO FREE

And that could be what's best for her, scientists say

BY CHABELI HERRERA
cherrera@miamiherald.com

■ Lolita, the Miami Sequarium's star killer whale, has been the face of a movement to free her for nearly 25 years. Now, at about 50 years old, Lolita might spend the rest of her life in captivity, and many orca experts across the country say that's the right decision.

For nearly 25 years, the Miami Seaquarium's killer whale, Lolita, has been the star of a sequel that has never been made.

In 1995, inspired by the original tale of Keiko, the whale in the 1993 film "Free Willy," a Washington state governor sought to make Lolita the next captive killer whale returned to the ocean. A fundraising campaign ensued, and soon it seemed that Free Lolita could be the next real-life Free Willy.

Former Gov. Mike Lowry's vision has since spawned thou-

SEE LOLITA, 18A

WALTER MICHOT Miami Herald file

IN DEPTH

HEALTH SECTION ON DIABETES

Type 1 diabetic children and young adults tell how they cope with the disease. Type 1 diabetes mainly affects children and young adults. **1B**

SPORTS

FLORIDA BATTLE GOES TO FSU

Turnovers doomed Florida as Florida State beat the Gators on Saturday for the fifth consecutive year, 38-22. **1C**

TROPICAL SUNDAY

DAVE BARRY'S GIFT GUIDE

Check out our annual salute to off-the-beaten-path holiday presents suitable for the recipient who truly has everything. **1M**

ROBERTO KOLTUN El Nuevo Herald

The Breakwater, an Art Deco hotel on Ocean Drive. Buildings such as this one benefit from the historic tax credit because it gives developers a financial incentive to rehabilitate historic structures.

Congress could eliminate tax break that helped enable Art Deco revival

BY JOEY FLECHAS AND ALEX DAUGHERTY
jflechas@miamiherald.com

Behind the signature Miami pastels, perfectly symmetrical facades and terrazzo floors that give South Beach's rich stock of Art Deco buildings its distinctive flavor, one section of the U.S. tax code fueled the rehabilitation of these once-crumbling structures.

As part of a sweeping tax overhaul, Republicans in Congress could eliminate the historic tax credit — a move that is upsetting local preservationists and developers who say the credit is an essential factor in the financial formula that keeps these decades-old buildings standing.

The tax plan passed by the House of Representatives on Thursday eliminates a 20 percent historic preservation tax credit. The tax plan under debate by the Senate currently keeps the

SEE TAX, 2A

Late delivery Dec. 3

To provide as many readers as possible with coverage of the ACC Championship Game on Dec. 2 between the Miami Hurricanes and Clemson Tigers, the Herald will move to a later deadline for the Sunday Dec. 3 paper. Some papers may be delivered later than usual. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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